Please amend claims 115-121, 145-150, 159-183 and 187-191 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 115 (Currently amended) In a method of transmitting a message ~~through~~ ~~the internet~~ from a sender to ~~an agent for a recipient~~ a destination address through a

5   server displaced from the ~~recipient~~ destination address, the steps at the server of:

receiving the message from the sender,

~~transmitting to the sender the message from the server to the~~ ~~agent of the recipient~~

transmitting the message to the destination address,

receiving at the server an indication from the ~~agent~~ destination address that the

10   message has been received at the ~~agent~~ destination address from the server,

providing at the server a digital signature of the message ~~received from the agent~~,

and

transmitting to the sender the message ~~received from the sender~~ and the digital

signature of the message for storage by the sender.

15

Claim 116 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 115, the step at

the server of:

discarding the message and the digital signature of the message after the

transmission of the message and the digital signature of the message to the sender.

20

Claim 117 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 116[[,]] the

steps at the server of:

receiving from the sender a copy of the message and the digital signature of the

message,

5   generating digital fingerprints of the message and the digital signature received

from the sender,

comparing the digital fingerprints, and

authenticating the message on the basis of the results of the comparison.

10   Claim 118 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 115, the steps at

the server of:

providing at the server, at the same time as the provision of the digital signature of

the message at the server, an attachment including the identity of the sender and the

identity and ~~internet~~ address of the server and the ~~identity and internet~~ destination address

15   ~~of the agent~~, all as received by the server from the ~~agent~~ destination address,

generating a digital signature of the attachment, and

transmitting to the sender the attachment including the identity of the sender, the

identity and ~~internet~~ address of the server and the ~~identity and internet~~ destination address

~~of the agent~~ and the digital signature of the attachment, ~~all as received by the server from~~

20   ~~the agent,~~ at the same time as the transmission of the message, and the digital signature of

the message, to the sender.

Claim 119 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 115, the steps <u>at</u> <u>the server</u> of:

receiving an attachment from the ~~agent~~ <u>destination address,</u>

5 providing at the server a digital signature of the attachment,

transmitting to the sender, at the same time as the transmission of the message and the digital signature of the message, the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment.

10 Claim 120 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 119, the steps at the server of:

receiving from the sender copies of the message and the attachment ~~of the~~ ~~message~~ and the digital signatures of the message and the attachment,

generating digital fingerprints of the message and the digital signature of the 15 message and <u>digital fingerprints of</u> the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment, and

comparing the digital fingerprints of the message and the digital signature of the message[[,]] and comparing the digital fingerprints of the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment[[,]] to authenticate the message and the attachment.

20

Claim 121 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 11[[9]][[5]], the steps at the server of

~~the attachment constituting a first attachment,~~

~~receiving at the server from the agent, at the same time as the reception of the~~ ~~message and the attachment of the message from the agent, a second~~ attachment ~~including the identity of the sender and the identity and internet address of the server and~~

5 ~~the identity and internet address of the agent, all as received by the server from the agent,~~

~~generating a digital signature of the second attachment, and~~

~~transmitting to the sender the second attachment including the identity of the~~ ~~sender, the identity and internet address of the server, and the identity and internet~~ ~~address of the agent and a digital signature of the second attachment, all as received by~~

10 ~~the server from the agent, at the same time as the transmission to the sender of the~~ ~~message and the first attachment and the digital signatures of the message and of the first~~ ~~attachment to the sender~~

<u>receiving the message and the digital signature of the message at the server from the sender, and</u>

15 <u>authenticating the message at the server on the basis of the message and the digital signature received by the server from the sender.</u>

Claim 145 (Currently amended) A method of transmitting a message ~~through the internet~~ from a sender to ~~an agent~~ <u>a destination address</u> for a recipient through a server

20 displaced from the ~~agent~~ <u>destination address,</u> including the steps at the server of,

receiving the message from the sender,

transmitting the message to the destination address through a path including

servers between the server and the destination address, and

transmitting to the ~~agent~~ sender the message and ~~a return address identifying the~~

~~sender and the server[[,]]~~ the path of transmission of the message between the server and

5   the destination address.

~~receiving from the agent the identify of the sender and the server, and~~

~~identifying the message transmitted from the server to the agent and the identify of~~

~~the sender and the server as received by the server from the recipient~~

10   Claim 146 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~145~~ 237 wherein

~~the server transmits to the sender the message and the~~ ~~identity of the sender and~~

~~the recipient and wherein~~

the server receives from the sender the message and the ~~identity of the sender and~~

~~the recipient~~ path of transmission of the message between the server and the destination

15   address and wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of ~~information transmitted by the~~

~~sender to the server after the receipt of the information by the server from the agent~~ the

message and the path of transmission of the message between the server and the

destination address.

20

Claim 147 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 146 wherein the server does not retain the message after it transmits the message to the sender.

Claim 148 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 145 wherein

5   the ~~recipient~~ destination address is one of a plurality of ~~recipients~~ destination

addresses receiving the message from the server ~~and wherein~~

the return address identifies the recipient from among the recipients in the

~~plurality~~.

10   Claim 149 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 145 wherein

~~the message has an attachment and wherein~~

the path of transmission of the message between the server and the destination

address includes the identity and address of the server and a recipient at the destination

address ~~return address also identifies the attachment to the message~~.

15

Claim 150 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 146 wherein

the server does not retain the message after it transmits the message to the sender

and wherein

the ~~recipient~~ destination address is one of a plurality of ~~recipients~~ destination

20 addresses receiving the message from the server and wherein

~~the return address identifies the recipient from among the recipients in the plurality~~

~~and wherein~~

the message has an attachment and wherein

the ~~return address also identifies the attachment to the message~~ <u>attachment</u>

<u>identifies the path of transmission of the message between the server and the destination</u>

<u>address</u>.

5

      Claim 159 (Currently amended) A method of providing a delivery at a ~~first~~ server

of an electronic message from the ~~first~~ server to a destination address, including the steps

of:

          receiving at the ~~first~~ server an electronic message from a ~~message~~ sender

10   for ~~routing~~ <u>transmission</u> to the destination address,

          transmitting the electronic message from the ~~first~~ server to ~~a destination~~

~~server for~~ the destination address via a protocol selected from a group consisting of an

SMTP <u>protocol</u> and an ESMTP protocol, and

          ~~recording~~ <u>receiving</u> at the ~~first~~ server the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmission of the</u>

15   <u>electronic message</u> between the ~~first~~ server and the destination ~~server in the~~ <u>address via</u>

<u>the</u> selected one of the protocols.

      Claim 160.   (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including

the step[[s]] of:

20   including[[,]] in the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmission</u> between the ~~first~~ server and

the destination ~~server~~ <u>address</u> via the selected <u>one of the</u> protocols<u>,</u> the identity of the

sender, the identity and ~~internet~~ address of the ~~first~~ server and the ~~identity and~~ ~~internet~~

<u>destination</u> address ~~of the destination server~~.

Claim 161.   (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including

5   the steps of:

providing ~~transactions between~~ <u>a transmission of the message from</u> the ~~first~~

server ~~and~~ <u>to</u> the sender,

including, in the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmission from</u> ~~between~~ the ~~first~~ server ~~and~~

<u>to</u> the sender, a digital signature ~~of the transmission~~ of the electronic message ~~between~~

10   ~~the first server and the destination server via the selected protocol~~.

Claim 162.   (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including

the step of:

recording, in the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmission</u> between the ~~first~~ server and the

15   destination ~~server~~ <u>address</u> via the selected <u>one of the</u> protocol[[s]], the time for the

~~sending~~ <u>transmission</u> of the message from the ~~first~~ server to the destination ~~server~~ <u>address</u>

and the time for the receipt of the message ~~by~~ <u>at</u> the destination ~~server~~ <u>address</u>.

Claim 163.   (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 160, including

20   the steps of:

~~providing transactions between the first server and the sender, and~~

including, in the transmission of the message between the ~~first~~ server and the

sender[[,]] a digital signature of the transmission of the electronic message between the

~~first~~ server and the destination ~~server~~ address via the selected one of the protocol[[s]], and

recording, in the ~~transactions~~ transmission between the ~~first~~ server and the

5   destination ~~server~~ address via the selected one of the protocol[[s,]] the time for the

~~sending~~ transmission of the message from the ~~first~~ server to the destination ~~server~~ address

and the time for the receipt of the message ~~by~~ at the destination ~~server~~ address.

Claim 164 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including the

10   step of:

including[[,]] in the ~~transactions~~ transmission of the message between the ~~first~~

server and the destination ~~server~~ address via the selected one of the protocol[[s,]] the

status of the delivery of the message ~~to~~ at the destination ~~server~~ address from the ~~first~~

server.

15

Claim 165 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 159, including the

step of:

receiving at the ~~first~~ server a delivery status notification relating to the status of the

delivery of the message ~~to~~ at the destination ~~server~~ address and the delivery of the

20   message from the destination ~~server~~ address to ~~the~~ a recipient.

Claim 166 (Currently amended) In a method of verifying at a first server a

delivery of an electronic message to a destination server for a recipient, the steps <u>at the</u>

<u>first server</u> of:

transmitting the electronic message from the first server to the destination server

5   ~~through a transaction between the first server and the destination server~~ via a protocol

selected from the group consisting of an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol,

receiving[[,]] at the first server from the destination server[[,]] the ~~transactions~~

<u>transmission</u> between the first server and the destination server via the selected one of the

protocols, and

10   transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the ~~transactions~~

<u>transmission</u> between the first server and the destination server ~~in~~ <u>via</u> the selected one of

the protocols.

Claim 167 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the step

15   of:

transmitting from the first server to the sender ~~a copy of~~ the message at the time of

the ~~transaction~~ <u>completion of the transmission of the message between</u> ~~of~~ the first server

and the destination server ~~in~~ <u>via</u> the selected one of the protocols.

20

Claim 168 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the step of:

retaining discarding the message at the first server after the transmission of the message in the selected one of the protocols by the first server to the ~~destination server~~

5   sender.

Claim 169 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the steps of:

providing at the first server a digital signature of the message, and

10   transmitting the digital signature of the message from the first server to the sender at the time of the transmission of the ~~transaction in the selected one of the protocols~~ message from the first server to the sender.

Claim 170 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 169, the steps

15   of:

transmitting from the first server to the sender ~~a copy of~~ the message after ~~of~~ the transmission ~~to the sender of the transaction~~ of the message between the first server and the destination server ~~in~~ via the selected one of the protocols, and

releasing the message at the first server after the transmission of the ~~copy of the~~

20   message ~~in~~ via the selected one of the protocols by the first server to the sender.

Claim 171 (Previously amended) In a method as set forth in claim 170, the step

of:

transmitting between the first server and the destination server the identity of the

sender, the identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the

5   destination server and the time of the receipt of the message by the first server and the

time of the transmission to the first server from the destination server of the identity of

the sender, the identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the

destination server.

10   Claim 172 (Previously amended) In a method as set forth in claim 166, the step

of:

receiving at the first server from the destination server a delivery status

notification indicating the status of the delivery of the message from the first server to the

destination server and the time of the transmission of the delivery status notification by

15   the destination server to the first server.

Claim 173 (Currently amended) In a method of verifying at a first server a

message received by the first server from a sender and transmitted by the first server to a

destination server for a recipient, the steps of:

20   receiving at the first server from the destination server an attachment including

~~transactions~~ transmissions between the first server and the destination server relating to

the message from the sender, the ~~transactions~~ transmissions between the first server and

the destination server being provided via a protocol selected from the group consisting of

an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the attachment

including the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions</u> between the first server and the destination

5   server via the selected one of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the sender to the first server the message and the attachment

including the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions via</u> ~~in~~ the selected one of the <u>SMTP and ESMTP</u>

protocols, and

authenticating the message on the basis of the message and the attachment

10   including the ~~transactions transmitted from the sender to the first server~~ <u>transmission via</u>

~~in~~ the selected one of the <u>SMTP and ESMTP</u> protocols.

Claim 174 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 173, ~~the step of~~

<u>wherein</u>:

15   ~~authenticating the message transmitted from the sender to the first server when the~~

~~comparison is identical~~ <u>the attachment includes transmissions between servers</u>

<u>intermediate, the first server and the destination server</u>.

Claim 175 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 17[[0]]<u>3</u>, the

20   step of:

removing the message from the first server when the first server transmits to the

sender the message and ~~an~~ <u>the</u> attachment including the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions</u>

between the first server and the destination server via the selected one of the SMTP

protocol and the ESMTP protocol.

Claim 176   (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 173, the steps

5   of:

receiving at the first server from the destination server the ~~indication~~ transmission

of the identity of the sender, the identity and address of the first server and the identity

and address of the destination server via the protocol selected from the group consisting

of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol, and

10   transmitting from the first server to the sender the identity of the sender, the

identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the destination

server at the time of the transmission from the first server to the sender of the message

and the ~~transaction~~ transmission between the first server and the destination server via the

protocol selected from the group consisting of the SMTP protocol and the ESMTP

15   protocol.

Claim 177 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 17~~5~~[[3]], the

steps of

providing at the first server [[a]] digital signature[[s]]of the message and the

20   attachment including the ~~transactions~~ transmission between the first server and the

destination server relating to the message from the sender, and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the digital

signature[[s]] of the message and the attachment ~~including the transactions between the~~

~~first server and the destination server via the selected one of the SMTP protocol and the~~

~~ESMTP protocol and the digital signature of the attachment~~.

5

Claim 178 (Currently amended) In a method as set forth in claim 173, the steps

of:

transmitting from the first server to the sender the identity of the sender, the

identity and address of the first server and the identity and address of the destination

10   server at the time that the message and the ~~transactions~~ transmissions between the first

server and the destination server are transmitted from the first server to the sender,

transmitting from the sender to the first server the information transmitted from

the first server to the sender, and

authenticating the message at the first server on the basis of the information

15   transmitted from the sender to the first server and representing the information previously

transmitted from the first server to the sender.

Claim 179 (Currently amended) A method of verifying delivery at a first server of

an electronic message to a destination server for a recipient, including the steps of:

20   receiving at the first server an electronic message from a message sender for

~~routing~~ transmission to the destination server,

~~establishing at the first server a communication with the destination server,~~

transmitting the electronic message from the first server the electronic message to

the destination server with a protocol transaction via a protocol selected from a group

consisting of an SMTP protocol and an ESMTP protocol,

receiving at the first server the protocol transactions transmissions between the

5   first server and the destination server via the selected one of the SMTP and ESMTP

protocols relating to the message, and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and at least a particular

portion of the protocol transactions transmissions between the first server and the

destination server via the selected one of the SMPTP and ESMTP protocols.

10

Claim 180 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 179 wherein

the message and the at least particular portion of the transactions provided

transmissions in via the selected one of the SMTP and ESMTP protocols to the sender are

provided by the sender to the first server, and wherein

15   the message is authenticated by the first server on the basis of the message and the

at least particular portion of the transactions transmissions from the sender to the first

server.

Claim 181 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 17[[8]][[9]]

20   wherein

a digital signature is made provided of the message at the first server and wherein

the digital signature is transmitted from the first server to the sender with the

message and the at least particular portion of the ~~protocol transactions~~ transmissions

between the first server and the destination server and wherein

the digital signature is thereafter provided by the sender to the first server with the

5   message and the at least particular portion of the ~~transactions~~ transmissions ~~in~~ via the

selected one of the SMTP and ESMTP protocol[[s]].

Claim 182 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 180 wherein

a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of the ~~transactions~~

10   transmissions provided ~~in~~ via the selected one of the SMTP and ESMTP ~~the selected~~

protocol[[s]] are produced at the first server and are transmitted to the sender with the

message and the ~~transactions~~ transmissions provided ~~in~~ via the selected one of the SMTP

and ESMTP protocol[[s]] and wherein

the digital signatures and the message and the at least particular portion of the

15   ~~transactions~~ transmissions ~~provided in~~ via the selected one of the SMTP and ESMTP

protocol[[s]] to the sender are thereafter provided by the sender to the first server and

wherein

digital fingerprints are produced at the first server from the message and the digital

signature of the message provided by the sender to the first server and wherein

20   the message is authenticated at the first server by establishing an identity between

the digital fingerprints produced at the first server.

Claim 183 (Currently amended) A method of verifying at a first server the delivery of an electronic message from the first server to a destination server <u>for a destination address</u> including the steps of:

receiving at the first server an electronic message from a message sender for

5   ~~routing~~ <u>transmission</u> to the destination server,

transmitting <u>the electronic message</u> from the first server to the destination server ~~the electronic message~~,

receiving at the first server the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions</u> between the first server

and the destination server via ~~the~~ <u>a</u> protocol selected from the group consisting of the

10   SMTP protocol and the ESMTP protocol,

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the ~~transactions~~

<u>transmission</u> between the first server and the destination server ~~in~~ <u>via</u> the selected one of

the protocols,

receiving at the first server from the sender the message[[s]] and the ~~transactions~~

15   <u>transmission</u> between the first server and the destination server ~~in~~ <u>via</u> the selected one of

the protocols, and

authenticating the message at the first server on the basis of the message received

by the first server from the sender and the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions</u> received by the first

server from the sender.

20

Claim 187 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 163, including the

steps of:

transmitting from the sender to the ~~first~~ server the information transmitted from

the ~~first~~ server to the sender, and

authenticating the electronic message on the basis of the information transmitted

from the sender to the ~~first~~ server ~~representing the transactions between the first server~~

5   ~~and the destination address via the selected protocol~~.

Claim 188 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 163, <u>including</u> the

steps of:

providing a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of an

10   attachment including the ~~transactions~~ <u>transmissions</u> between the ~~first~~ server and the

destination server via the selected <u>one of the</u> protocol[[s]], and

transmitting the digital signature of the message and the digital signature of the

attachment from the ~~first~~ server to the sender at the same time that the message and the

attachment are transmitted from the ~~first~~ server to the sender.

15

Claim 189   (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 172, <u>including</u>

the steps of:

generating at the first server a digital signature of the message and a digital

signature of the attachment including the ~~transactions transmitted from~~ <u>transmission</u>

20   <u>between</u> the <u>first server and the destination server</u> ~~sender to the first~~ <u>via the selected one</u>

<u>of the protocols</u> ~~server~~, and

transmitting from the first server to the sender the message and the attachment and

the digital signatures of the message and the attachment.

Claim 190 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 173, including the

5   steps of:

providing a digital signature of the message and a digital signature of the

attachment including the ~~transactions~~ transmission between the first server and the

destination server via the selected one of the protocol[[s]], and

transmitting the digital signatures from the first server to the sender at the same

10   time as the transmission from the first server to the sender of the message and the

attachment including the ~~transactions~~ transmission via the selected one of the

protocol[[s]].

Claim 191 (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 189, including the

15   steps of:

transmitting from the sender to the first server the message and the digital

signature of the message and the attachment and the digital signature of the attachment

including the ~~transactions~~ transmissions between the first server and the destination

server ~~in~~ via the selected one of the protocols, and

20   authenticating the message on the basis of the digital signatures and the message

and the attachment transmitted ~~between~~ from the sender ~~and~~ to the first server ~~in~~ via the

selected one of the protocols.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:

Claim 226.　(New) In a method of authenticating a message provided by a sender and transmitted to a destination server by a second server displaced from the sender and the destination server, the steps at the second server of:

5　　　providing an attachment transmitted between the second server and the destination server via a selected one of SMTP and ESMTP protocols, and

transmitting the attachment from the second server to the sender.

Claim 227.　(New) In a method as set forth in claim 226, the steps at the second

10　server of:

providing a digital signature of the attachment at the second server, and

transmitting the digital signature from the second server to the sender at the time of transmitting the attachment from the second server to the sender.

15　　　Claim 228.　(New) In a method as set forth in claim 227, the steps at the second server of:

receiving the attachment and the digital signature at the second server from the sender, and

authenticating the attachment at the second server on the basis of the attachment

20　and the digital signature received by the second server from the sender.

Claim 229.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 227, the steps at the second

server of:

receiving the attachment and the digital signature at the second server from the

sender,

5   providing at the second server digital fingerprints of the attachment and the digital

signature received at the second server from the sender, and

comparing the digital fingerprints to authenticate the attachment.

Claim 230.   (New) In a method of authenticating a message provided by a sender

10   and transmitted to a destination server by a second server displaced from the sender and

the destination server, the steps at the second server of:

providing an attachment including the identity and address of the sender and the

identity and address of the second server and the identity and address of the destination

server, and

15   transmitting the attachment from the second server to the sender.

Claim 231.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 230 wherein

the attachment includes the address and identity of intermediate stations receiving

the attachment in the transmission of the message between the second server and the

20   destination server.

Claim 232.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 230, the steps at the second server of:

providing a digital signature of the attachment at the second server, and

transmitting the digital signature from the second server to the sender at the time

5   of transmitting the attachment from the second server to the sender.

Claim 233.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 231, the steps at the second server of:

providing a digital signature of the attachment at the second server, and

10   transmitting the digital signature from the second server to the sender at the time

of transmitting the attachment from the second server to the sender.

Claim 234.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 232, the steps at the second server of:

15   receiving the attachment and the digital signature at the second server from the

sender, and

authenticating the attachment at the second server on the basis of the attachment

and the digital signature received by the second server from the sender.

Claim 235.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 233, the steps at the second server of:

authenticating the attachment at the second server on the basis of the attachment and the digital signature received by the second server from the sender.

5

Claim 236.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 232, the steps at the second server of:

receiving the attachment and the digital signature at the second server from the sender,

10   providing at the second server digital fingerprints of the attachment and the digital signature received at the second server from the sender, and

comparing the digital fingerprints to authenticate the attachment.

Claim 237.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 233, the steps at the second
15   server of:

receiving the attachment and the digital signature at the second server from the sender,

providing at the second server digital fingerprints of the attachment and the digital signature received at the second server from the sender, and

20   comparing the digital fingerprints to authenticate the attachment.

Claim 238   (New) In a method of verifying at a server a delivery of an electronic message to a destination address, the steps of:

transmitting the electronic message between the server and the destination address,

receiving at the server the path of transmission of the message between the server

5   and the destination address, the path including servers between the server and the

destination address, and

transmitting to the sender the message and the path of transmission of the message

between the server and the destination or address.

10   Claim 239.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 238 wherein

the server does not retain the message or the path of transmission of the message

between the server and the destination address after the server transmits to the sender the

message and the path of transmission of the message between the server and the

destination address.

15

Claim 240.   (New) In a method as set forth in claim 238 wherein

the server receives from the sender the message and the path of

transmission of the message between the server and the destination address and wherein

the server authenticates the message on the basis of the message, and the

20   path of transmission of the message between the server and the destination address,

received by the server from the sender.

Claim 241.　(New) <u>In a method as set forth in claim 240 wherein</u>

<u>the server provides a digital signature of the message and transmits the digital</u>

<u>signature with the message to the sender and wherein</u>

<u>the server receives from the sender the message and the digital signature of the</u>

5　<u>message and wherein</u>

<u>the server provides digital fingerprints of the message and the digital signature and</u>

<u>compares the digital fingerprints to authenticate the message.</u>

Claim 242.　(New) <u>In a method as set forth in claim 240 wherein</u>

10　<u>the server provides a digital signature of the path of transmission of the message</u>

<u>between the server and the destination address and transmits the digital signature to the</u>

<u>sender with the path of transmission and wherein</u>

<u>the server receives from the sender the path of transmission and the digital</u>

<u>signature of the path of transmission and wherein</u>

15　<u>the server provides digital fingerprints of the path of transmission and the digital</u>

<u>signature of the path of the transmission and compares the digital fingerprints to</u>

<u>authenticate the message.</u>